

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for computerized monitoring of ~~inventory~~ ~~dispensation~~ of pharmaceuticals ~~for~~ to inmates and dispensation of prescribed medication to inmates in correctional facilities in conjunction with computerized records including an electronic medical record ~~stored in a computer having a computer memory and containing information about a specific inmate to receive prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history~~, the method comprising the steps of:

reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record to verify that the prescribed medication is suitable for the inmate ~~responsive to electronic medical record data contained therein, the electronic medical record stored in computer memory of a first computer defining a computerized records computer configured to manipulate and store the computerized records including the electronic medical record;~~

authorizing release of the inmate's prescribed medication ~~by a pharmacist located at a central pharmacy for the inmate if responsive to the prescribed medication has been being verified as suitable for the inmate;~~

labeling a unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication for dispensing to the inmate ~~responsive to the authorization;~~

delivering the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to a correctional facility unit that houses the inmate ~~the correctional facility unit located remote from the central pharmacy;~~

transferring the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication within the correctional facility unit to administer the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate;

dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate;

forming a record in the computer of dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate in computer memory of a second computer defining a correctional facility unit computer configured to store computerized dispensation, received verification, and

administration verification records responsive to the dispensing of the prescribed medication to the inmate, the correctional facility unit computer positioned in communication with the computerized records computer to update the inmate's electronic medical record;

verifying receipt by the inmate of the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication;

forming a receipt verification record in the computer in the computer memory of the correctional facility unit computer indicating verification that the inmate received the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to the verification of receipt by the inmate; and

performing an actual physical verification verifying whether or not the inmate consumed the inmate's prescribed medication;

performing one of the following administration verification steps:

forming an administration verification record in the computer in the computer memory of the correctional facility unit computer indicating an actual physical verification that verifying whether the inmate took consumed the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to the verification of consumption by the inmate, and

forming the administration verification record in the computer memory of the correctional facility unit computer indicating that the inmate did not consume the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication when so occurring; and

updating the inmate's electronic medical record by the computerized records computer responsive to receiving the administration verification record from the correctional facility unit computer.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1,

wherein the inmate's electronic medical record includes laboratory results, medical checkup data, and problems associated with the inmate; and

wherein the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record includes performing the step of automatically reviewing the electronic medical record for drug-drug interactions, duplicate therapies, and allergies by a third computer defining a pharmacy computer responsive

to entry of a prescription for the inmate in the computer memory of one or more of the following:  
the computerized records computer and the pharmacy computer.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record further includes performing the step of manually reviewing a substantial portion of the inmate's electronic medical record to include the laboratory results, medical checkup data, and problems associated with the inmate contained within the electronic medical record prior to the pharmacist authorizing release of the prescribed medication to thereby reduce risk of assignment of an inappropriate medication.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of performing an automated comparison ~~offer~~ including the step of a pharmacist comparing the inmate's prescribed medication with a drug formulary of approved medication approved by the specific correctional facility unit housing the inmate stored in the computer memory upon responsive to computer system entry of a prescription into the computer memory of one or more of the following: the computerized records computer and the pharmacy computer.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising including the step of recommending a substitute medication if the step of comparing the prescribed medication with the drug formulary of approved medication indicates the prescribed medication is not contained with the drug formulary of approved medication prior to the step of authorizing release of the prescribed medication preventing a potential disruption of medication administration resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the computerized records computer and the correctional facility unit computer located remotely therefrom by caching on the correctional facility unit computer at least portions of each electronic medical record for each inmate scheduled to receive prescribed medicines.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising including the step of performing an automated verification verifying that the inmate is the inmate who has been prescribed the inmate's prescribed medication by the correctional facility unit computer prior to forming a record in the computer of dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate responsive to the inmate swiping an identification card through a card swiper;

receiving a data entry from a correctional facility pill window technician for the correctional facility unit indicating an allergic reaction to the inmate's prescribed medication; and updating the inmate's electronic medical record over a communications network responsive to the step of receiving.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising including the step of adding inmate enrollment data records to the inmate's electronic medical record if when information related to a new inmate is not already present, the enrollment data being uploaded from a correctional facility admissions computer located at the correctional facility unit to the inmate's electronic medical record over a communications network.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising including the step of sorting each of a plurality of unit packets for each separate one of a plurality of inmates into a shipment in accordance with a shipping schedule for delivery of the unit packets to the each correctional facility unit after each of the plurality of unit packets of prescribed medication including the inmate's the prescribed medication has been labeled and prepared for shipment.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 84,

wherein the plurality of unit packets for each separate one of the plurality of inmates comprises a 30 day supply of unit packets for each of a plurality of different prescribed medications for each separate one of the plurality of inmates; and

wherein the method further comprises including the step of performing an automated update updating the of an inventory record of pharmaceuticals at the correctional facility unit in response to receiving the shipment, the shipment received from a facility affiliated with the central pharmacy the step of delivering the unit packet of the prescribed medication to a correctional facility unit.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising including the step of

preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the computerized records computer storing inmate electronic medical records and a remote pharmacy computer located remotely therefrom by caching on the remote pharmacy computer each electronic medical record on a pharmacy computer located remotely therefrom for each inmate contained within each shipment scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period prior to the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising including the step of

preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the computerized records computer storing inmate electronic medical records and a remote pharmacy computer located remotely therefrom by caching data related to each label to be printed for each of a plurality of shipments to a corresponding plurality of correctional facilities scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period prior to printing the respective label.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, ~~wherein the step of forming a record in the computer verifying whether the inmate took the unit packet of the prescribed medication indicates that the inmate did not take the unit packet of prescribed medication and further includes the steps of~~

~~wherein the plurality of unit packets for each separate one of the plurality of inmates comprises a 30 day supply of unit packets for a plurality of different prescribed medications for each separate one of the plurality of inmates; and~~

~~wherein the method further comprises performing the following steps responsive to the failure of an inmate to consume at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication:~~

~~subsequently locating the at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication;~~

~~returning the at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication, if when determined to be suitable for future use, to a central pharmacy for reclamation; and adjusting the inventory of pharmaceuticals accordingly.~~

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, further ~~comprising~~ including the step of, ~~performing an automated adjustment of adjusting the inventory record of pharmaceuticals for each inmate in correctional facilities following responsive to the step of delivering the one or more unit packets of the inmate's prescribed medication to the correctional facility unit that houses the respective inmate.~~

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further ~~comprising~~ including the step of, ~~automatically refilling the prescribed medication for chronic conditions if once the step of reviewing the computerized inmate correctional facility record and the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record to verify that the prescribed medication is suitable for the inmate, has already been performed for the inmate's prescribed medication.~~

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising including the step steps of scheduling a time period that the correctional facility unit in which the each inmate's prescribed medication of a plurality of inmates in the correctional facility unit is to be dispensed to the respective inmate;

caching electronic medical records for each inmate within the correctional facility unit scheduled to receive prescribed medication during the scheduled time period response to the step of scheduling; and

refusing to dispense prescribed medication to an inmate failing to match an identity of a scheduled inmate.

16. (Currently amended) A method for computerized monitoring of inventory dispensation of pharmaceuticals for to inmates in correctional facilities in conjunction with computer records including an electronic medical record stored in a computerized records computer having a computer memory and a printer, the electronic medical record containing information about an inmate to receive prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying on at least one computer display both a portion of the inmate's electronic medical record and a portion of the inmate's correctional facility record, the step performed by a pharmacy computer configured to manipulate and store the computer records including the electronic medical record, the electronic medical record including laboratory work results and medical checkup data;

reviewing both the portion of the inmate's electronic medical record and the portion of the inmate's correctional facility record by a pharmacist to verify that the prescribed medication is suitable for the inmate, the electronic medical record including laboratory work results and medical checkup data;

verifying suitability of the prescribed medication by the pharmacist responsive to the review of the inmate's electronic medical record;

authorizing release of the prescribed medication for the inmate if by the pharmacist responsive to the prescribed medication has been being verified as suitable for the inmate, the

authorization entered into the pharmacy computer to update the inmate's electronic medical record.

updating the inmate's electronic medical record responsive to entry of the authorization into the pharmacy computer; and

printing a label with the printer for the inmate's prescribed medication to place upon a unit packet of the prescribed medication for dispensing to the inmate, the step of printing performed by a printer positioned at a pharmacy technician workstation responsive to the authorization to release the prescribed medication.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of verifying includes reviewing both an inmate record and the electronic medical record, the method further comprising including the step of:

delivering a multi-day supply of unit packets for each one of a plurality of different prescribed medications for each separate one of a plurality of inmates, the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to a correctional facility unit that houses the inmate from a facility associated with a central pharmacy, the correctional facility unit being located remote therefrom.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising including the step of:

performing an automated update of adjusting a correctional facility unit inventory record based responsive to receipt of upon the unit packets received by the correctional facility unit.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising including the step of:

sorting each unit packet of prescribed medication of a plurality of unit packets for each separate one of a plurality of inmates in a correctional facility unit in accordance with a shipment schedule for delivery to the correctional facility units unit.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16,

wherein the inmate is housed in a specific correctional facility unit; and  
wherein the step of reviewing a portion of the inmate's electronic medical record includes  
performing an automated comparison of comparing the inmate's prescribed medication with a  
drug formulary of approved medication for the individual correctional facility unit housing the  
inmate stored in the computer memory upon responsive to entry of a prescription into the  
computer, the drug formulary stored in computer memory.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising including the step of,

preventing a potential disruption of medication administration resulting from a  
breakdown in network communications between the computerized records computer and a  
correctional facility unit computer located remotely therefrom by caching on the correctional  
facility unit computer at least portions of each electronic medical record for each inmate  
scheduled to receive prescribed medicines~~recommending a substitute medication if the step of~~  
~~comparing the prescribed medication with the drug formulary of approved medication indicates~~  
~~the prescribed medication is not contained with the drug formulary of approved medication prior~~  
~~to the step of authorizing release of the prescribed medication.~~

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising including the step of,

sorting each of a plurality of the unit packets for each separate one of a plurality of  
inmates into a shipment in accordance with a shipping schedule for delivery of the unit packets  
to each a correctional facility unit after each of the plurality of unit packets of prescribed  
medication including the inmate's the prescribed medication has been labeled for shipment.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising including the step of:  
preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the pharmacy computer and the computerized records computer storing the electronic medical records and located remotely therefrom by caching each electronic medical record for each inmate contained within each shipment scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period in memory of the pharmacy computer prior to the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the computer is a pharmacy computer, the method further comprising including the step of:  
preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the pharmacy computer and the computerized records computer located remotely therefrom by caching data related to each label to be printed for each shipment scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period in memory of the pharmacy computer prior to printing the label.

25. (Currently amended) A method for computerized monitoring of dispensation of prescribed medication to inmates in correctional facilities in conjunction with computerized records including an electronic medical record stored in a computer having a computer memory, the electronic medical record containing information about an inmate to receive prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the method comprising the steps of:  
dispensing a unit packet of prescribed medication to an inmate;  
forming a record in the computer of dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate in a memory of a computer configured to manipulate and store dispensation receipt verification, and administration verification records, the dispensation record formed responsive to the dispensing of the unit packet to the inmate;  
verifying receipt by the inmate of the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication;

forming a receipt verification record in the memory of the computer indicating verification that the inmate received the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to verifying receipt by the inmate; and

performing one of the following administration verification steps:

forming a an administration verification record in the memory of the computer indicating an actual physical verification by a human observer that verifying whether the inmate consumed took the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to verifying consumption by the inmate, and

forming a the administration verification record in the memory of the computer indicating that the inmate did not consume the unit packet of prescribed medication when so occurring; and-

providing a verification report responsive to the administration verification record to evidence that the correctional facility unit housing the inmate at least attempted to provide medical services for the inmate.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of forming a record in the computer verifying whether the inmate took the unit packet of the prescribed medication indicates that the inmate did not take the unit packet of prescribed medication and further includes the steps

wherein the step of dispensing a unit packet of prescription medication to an inmate dispensing a 30 day supply of unit packets for the prescription medication; and

wherein the method further comprises performing the following steps responsive to the failure of the inmate to consume at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication of:

subsequently locating the at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication;

returning the at least one unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication, if when determined to be suitable for future use, to a central pharmacy for reclamation; and

adjusting the inventory of pharmaceuticals accordingly.

27. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a machine readable code of program instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps of monitoring pharmaceutical inventory and monitoring of dispensation of prescribed medication to inmates in correctional facilities in conjunction with an electronic medical record containing information about an inmate to receive the prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device comprising the steps of:

performing a reviewing of the electronic medical record to include:

performing an automated review of an inmate's prescription and the inmate's electronic medical record responsive to entry of the prescription into an associated prescription system, and

displaying the inmate's electronic medical record and prescription for manual on-screen comparison by a pharmacist;

receiving an authorization to authorizing release of a prescribed medication for the inmate from the pharmacist;

providing data to print/printing a label for the inmate's prescribed medication to place upon an unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication;

forming a dispensation record in the computer memory of dispensing the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate responsive to receiving an indication that the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication was dispensed;

forming a receipt verification record in the computer memory indicating verification that the inmate received the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to receiving an indication verifying that the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication was received by the inmate; and

performing one of the following administration verification steps:

forming a an administration verification record in the computer memory of indicating an actual physical verification that verifying whether the inmate consumed took the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to receiving an

indication verifying that the unit packet of the inmate's prescribed medication was consumed by the inmate, and

forming a the administration verification record in the computer memory indicating that the inmate did not consume the unit packet of prescribed medication responsive to receiving an indication that the inmate's prescribed medication was not consumed by the inmate.

28. (Currently amended) The program storage device of Claim 27, wherein the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device further include the steps of:

scheduling shipping of each of a plurality of unit packets for each of a plurality of different prescribed medications for each separate one of a plurality of inmates--packet--of--the--prescribed--medication to a correctional facility unit containing the plurality of inmates--inmate; and

adjusting--performing an automated update of the a pharmaceutical inventory record based upon receipt of the unit--packet--packet--of--the--prescribed--medication by the correctional facility unit.

29. (Currently amended) The program storage device of Claim 28, wherein the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device further include the step of:

sorting each unit packet of the plurality of unit packets for each separate one of a plurality of inmates in the correctional facility unit into a shipment in accordance with a shipping schedule for delivery of each unit packet to each--the--correctional--facility--unit--after the--prescribed--medication has been labeled.

30. (Currently amended) The program storage device of Claim 28, wherein the method step of updating the inventory of pharmaceuticals in the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device is performed in response to the step of delivering each unit packet of the prescribed medication to a correctional facility unit wherein the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device further include the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication administration resulting from a breakdown in network communications between a computerized records computer storing the inmate's electronic medical record and a local correctional facility unit computer located remotely therefrom by caching in memory of the correctional facility unit computer at least portions of the electronic medical record for each inmate scheduled to receive prescribed medicines.

31. (Currently amended) The program storage device of Claim 28, wherein the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device further include the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between a pharmacy computer and a remote computerized records computer storing electronic medical records and located remotely therefrom by caching in memory of the pharmacy computer each electronic medical record for each inmate contained within each shipment scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period prior to the step of reviewing the inmate's electronic medical record.

32. (Currently amended) The program storage device of Claim 28, wherein the method steps of the program instructions in the machine readable code in the program storage device further include the step of:

preventing a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between a pharmacy computer and a remote computerized records computer storing electronic medical records and located remotely therefrom by caching in memory of the pharmacy computer data related to each label to be printed for each shipment scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period prior to printing the label.

33. (Currently amended) A computerized system for monitoring of pharmaceutical inventory and dispensation of medication to inmates in correctional facilities in conjunction with an electronic medical record stored in a computer having a computer memory and a printer, the electronic medication record containing information about an inmate to receive prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the system comprising:

a pharmacy database stored in the computer memory for maintaining records related to a pharmaceutical inventory for correctional facilities and for maintaining a drug formulary of approved medication;

a pharmacist review workstation configured to enable a pharmacist to simultaneously review the inmate's electronic medical record and an inmate's prescription in the computer memory and upon review of the inmate's prescription, approve the prescription;

a pharmacist technician workstation positioned remote from a correctional facility housing the inmate, and configured to enable pharmacist technicians to print labels with the printer for application to the inmate's prescribed medication upon command prior to delivery to the correctional facility;

a medication dispensation workstation positioned at the correctional facility and configured to enable the prescribed medication to be dispensed to an inmate and to enable a medication compliance history to be recorded in the computer memory, the recording of the inmate's compliance history to include:

forming a record of dispensing the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate in computer memory responsive to a pharmacy technician indicating the dispensing of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate;

forming a receipt verification record in computer memory indicating verification that the inmate received the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to a pharmacy technician verifying receipt by the inmate, and

performing one of the following administration verification steps:

forming an administration verification record in computer memory indicating an actual physical verification that the inmate consumed the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to the pharmacy technician verifying consumption by the inmate, and

forming the administration verification record in computer memory indicating that the inmate did not consume the unit packet of prescribed medication when so occurring; and

a communications network electronically interconnecting the electronic medical record database, the pharmacy database, the pharmacist review workstation, the pharmacist technician workstation, the medication dispensation workstation, ~~the a~~ printer, and the computer memory storing the electronic medical records to communicate with each other.

34. (Currently amended) A computerized system for monitoring pharmaceutical inventory in correctional facilities in conjunction with an electronic medical record containing information about an inmate to received prescribed medication and the inmate's medical information including laboratory work results and medical checkup data, the system having a computerized records computer storing electronic medical records in an electronic medical record databases computer memory, a printer, and further comprising:

a pharmacy database stored in ~~the~~ computer memory for maintaining records related to a pharmaceutical inventory for correctional facilities ~~facility units~~ and for maintaining a drug formulary of approved medication for a correctional facility unit;

a pharmacist review workstation configured to access a pharmacy server to enable a pharmacist to simultaneously review the inmate's medical information including laboratory work results and medical checkup data and an inmate's prescription order in the computer memory and upon review of the inmate's prescription order, approve the prescription;

the pharmacy server in communication with the pharmacy database and configured to prevent a potential disruption of medication delivery resulting from a breakdown in network communications between the pharmacy server and the computerized records computer storing electronic medical records located remotely therefrom by caching in the pharmacy database each electronic medical record for each inmate contained within each prescribed medication shipment of a plurality of prescribed medication shipments scheduled to be shipped within a predefined time period prior to a pharmacist reviewing the respective inmate's electronic medical record and prescription order;

a pharmacist technician workstation configured to access the pharmacy server to enable pharmacist technicians to print labels with the printer for application to the inmate's prescribed medication upon command prior to shipment to the correctional facility; and

a communications network electronically interconnecting the electronic medical record database, the pharmacy database, the pharmacist review workstation, the pharmacist technician workstation, the printer, and the computer memory to communicate with each other.

35. (Currently amended) A computerized system for monitoring dispensation of medication to inmates in correctional facilities in conjunction with an electronic medical record containing information about an inmate to receive prescribed medication and the inmate's medical history, the system comprising:

a medication dispensation workstation positioned at a correctional facility and configured to enable the inmate's prescribed medication to be dispensed to the inmate and to enable a medication compliance history to be recorded in the computer memory, the recording of the inmate's compliance history to include:

forming a record of dispensing the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate in the computer memory responsive to a pharmacy technician indicating the dispensing of the inmate's prescribed medication to the inmate;

forming a receipt verification record in the computer memory indicating verification that the inmate received the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to a pharmacy technician verifying receipt by the inmate, and

performing one of the following administration verification operations:

forming an administration verification record in the computer memory indicating an actual physical verification by a human observer that the inmate consumed the inmate's prescribed medication responsive to the pharmacy technician verifying consumption by the inmate, and

forming a the administration verification record in the computer memory indicating that the inmate did not consume the unit packet of prescribed medication when so occurring; and

a communications network to enable the electronic medical record and the medication dispensation workstation to communicate with each other;

36. (Currently amended) The computerized system for monitoring dispensation of medication according to claim 35, further including comprising:

a communications network to enable an electronic medical record computer and the medication dispensation workstation to communicate with each other;

a pharmacy database for maintaining inmate electronic medical records and records related to a pharmaceutical inventory for the correctional facilities facility and for maintaining a drug formulary of approved medication for the correctional facility; and wherein

the medication dispensation workstation is further configured to display a medical compliance or medical administration record for the inmate.